

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I would ask the FCC what specific public problems would be solved by the measure. Is this the only or best way to solve these problems?

From my point of view, this will create more problems by further homogenization of an already bland and unresponsive media system. I have already seen a great reduction in the variety of views expressed in my community because of the consolidation of local media outlets. I have friends in other parts of the country who have expressed similar concerns.

While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, these sources were not created by deregulation of publicly owned and privately controlled media venues. There is no doubt that past deregulation has greatly reduced the variety of views presented to the public.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas.

If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised!

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding. In fact, the public would best be served by a reduction in the number of media outlets controlled by any single interest.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you for your consideration

Dan Drumm